

REMARKS

As a preliminary matter, Applicants appreciate the indication that claims 14 and 15 would be allowable is re-written in independent form including all of the features of the base claim and any intervening claims.

To expedite prosecution of the application, Applicants are re-writing dependent claims 14 and 15 into independent form. Claim 1 as amended includes the features of claim 14.

Claims 1, 2, 4-6, 13 and 16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being unpatentable over Martin (U.S. Patent No. 2,075,859). Applicants respectfully traverse.

Claim 1 has been amended to include the feature of claim 14 which was considered allowable. Claims 2, 4-6, 13 and 16 depend, directly or indirectly from claim 1. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection to claims 1, 2, 4-6, 13 and 16 be withdrawn.

Claim 3 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Martin. Applicants respectfully traverse. Claim 3 depends from claim 1 as amended and therefore includes all of the features of claim 1 as amended, plus additional features. Therefore, for at least the reason discussed above with regard to claim 1, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection to claim 3 also be withdrawn.

Claims 7-9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Martin in view of Semon (U.S. Patent No. 4,697,316). Applicants respectfully traverse. Claims 7-9 depend from claim 1 as amended and therefore include all of the features of claim 1 as amended, plus additional features. Therefore, for at least the reason discussed above with regard to claim 1, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection to claims 7-9 also be withdrawn.

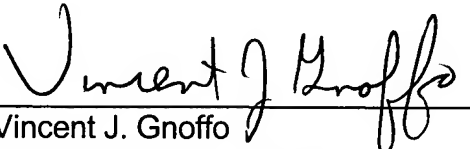
Claims 10-12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Martin in view of Mattis (U.S. Patent No. 6,463,703). Applicants respectfully traverse. Claims 10-12 depend from claim 1 as amended and therefore include all of the features of claim 1 as amended, plus additional features. Therefore, for at least the reason

discussed above with regard to claim 1, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection to claims 10-12 also be withdrawn.

New claim 87 is claim 15 re-written into independent form. Claims 88-100, which are based on claims 2-13 and 16, are added to depend from claim 87. For at least this reason, Applicants respectfully request that new claims 87-100 be entered and allowed.

For all of the above reasons, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of the present application. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney at the below number if there are any outstanding issues that could be resolved through a telephone conference.

Respectfully submitted,



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